

(d) and (e) The Expedition team consisting of Scientists and Technical/ Logistics Personnel has two components, the Summer and a Winter Team. Summer team mainly consists of scientists while the wintering team consists of scientists and logistics personnel comprising of engineers, technicians and other support staff.

New warning system on impending tsunami disasters

575. SHRI VAJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new warning system about the impending tsunami disasters would be in place by September, 2007;

(b) if so, whether this system will be fool-proof and the time frame by when it will trigger warnings;

(c) whether it will be prior to impending disaster or after this and the modalities adopted to take affected people to safer places; and

(d) whether it will be placed at one place and will relay the warning over the affected areas and will the local authorities be active with in this response period?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian ocean, is scheduled to be operational by September 2007. After the detection of an undersea earthquake event potentially capable for generating tsunami, the progression of the tsunami waves and the level of water will be monitored for validating the occurrence of tsunami. A tsunami advisory generated after the watch will be fool-proof. An interim warning center already exists at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and alert is issued after 30 minutes of an earth quake event of greater than 6.5 magnitude on Richter scale.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The warnings will be issued before the disaster. Coastal areas will be identified with respect to their vulnerability to various scenarios of tsunamis using tsunami models. Integrated Operation Centre (IOC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs has systems in place for dissemination of warning/advisories using Country Wide Instant Alert Network. Hotline,

Email and V-SAT communications. The local authorities are prepared for rescue and relief work and evacuation of people to safer places in the event of a natural disaster.

Wastage of food items

†576. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on an average, food items worth 13 billion dollars go waste/unutilized annually;

(b) if not, the estimate of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this loss can be prevented having a food processing system in place;

(d) if so, the details thereof and maximum extent of the loss which can be prevented; and

(e) the amount required for preventing this maximum loss by setting up the processing system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) According to the report of M/s Rabo India Finance Pvt. Ltd., wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming; provisions in Agricultural produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by a developed food processing industry, strengthening of the post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain.

A Vision 2015 on Food Processing Industries has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, which envisages, *inter-alia*, cluster

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.